
SECOND REPORT

OF THE

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

1892.

BOSTON :

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

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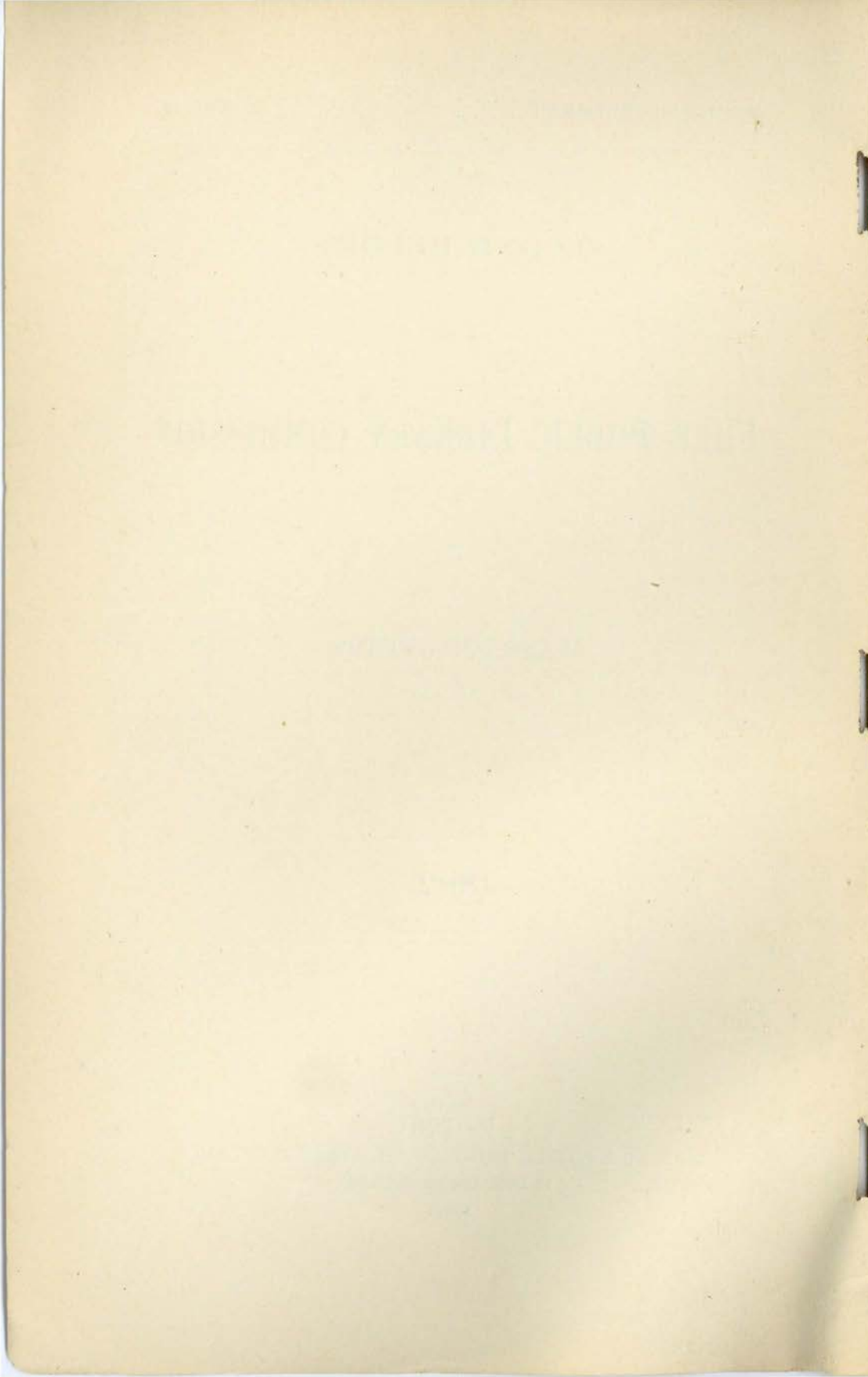
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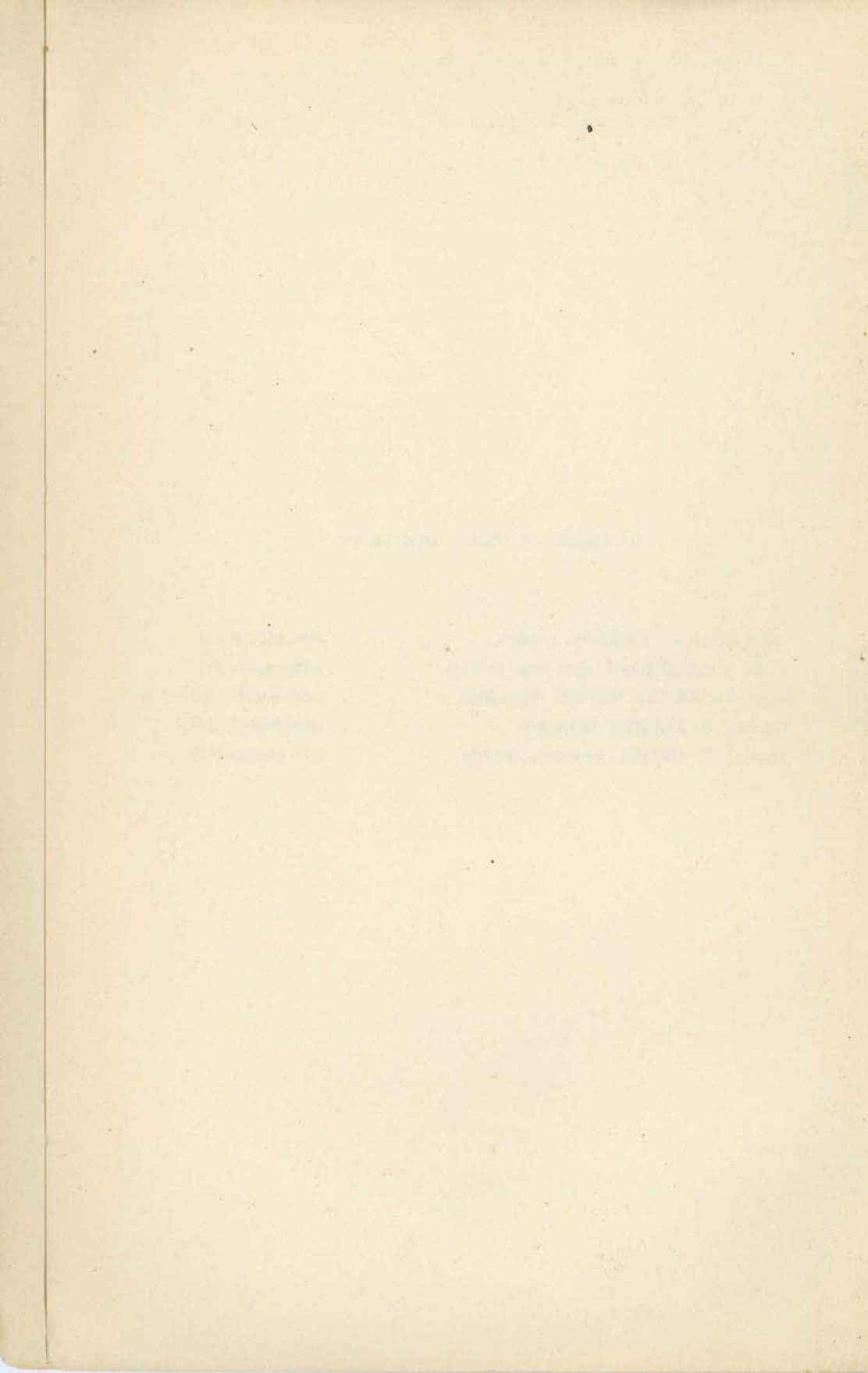
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE,

1892.



MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

Miss ANNA E. TICKNOR, Boston,	term expires 1896.
C. B. TILLINGHAST, <i>Chairman</i> , Boston,	.	.	.	.	term expires 1895.
SAMUEL SWETT GREEN, Worcester,	.	.	.	.	term expires 1894.
HENRY S. NOURSE, Lancaster,	.	.	.	.	term expires 1893.
Miss E. P. SOHIER, <i>Secretary</i> , Beverly,	.	.	.	.	term expires 1892.



REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

The Free Public Library Commission herewith submits its second report, embracing a summary of the results accomplished under the law by which it was established during the calendar year 1891.

THE COMMISSION.

The personnel and organization of the commission remains the same as at the date of the first report, Miss Anna E. Ticknor, whose term expired Oct. 22, 1891, having been re-appointed by the governor for the full term of five years. It has held meetings at the State House, at least once each month during the year.

ACTION OF THE TOWNS.

As a result of the appeal issued to the towns, which was printed in the last report, thirty-seven towns accepted the provisions of chapter 347 of the Acts of 1890, at the annual town meetings last spring. Three of the towns accepting the act elected a board of trustees by *viva voce* vote, instead of by ballot as required by law. The town of Bourne remedied the error at a subsequent town meeting, and the action of the town of Richmond was ratified and made valid by chapter 391 of the Acts of 1891; but the town of Wilbraham has not as yet informed the commission that the choice of its trustees has been completed according to the statute. The following list embraces the names of the thirty-six towns that fully complied with the law, and to which books have been supplied by the commission:—

Agawam,	Granby,	Plainfield,
Alford,	Greenwich,	Plympton,
Berlin,	Hamilton,	Prescott,
Blandford,	Hampden,	Richmond,
Bourne,	Leverett,	Rowley,
Boxborough,	Mashpee,	Sandwich,
Charlemont,	Monterey,	Sheffield,
Chilmark,	Mount Washington,	Southwick,
Edgartown,	New Ashford,	Tyringham,
Egremont,	Otis,	Westport,
Falmouth,	Pelham,	West Stockbridge
Goshen,	Peru,	Windsor.

CERTIFICATES REQUIRED.

The following suggestions were forwarded to the towns which accepted the act, and the certificates indicated therein were received and are now on file : —

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION. — SUGGESTIONS AND FORMS.

In order to secure a free public library for your town please note the following suggestions : —

1. Have an article inserted in the warrant for your next town meeting "To see if the town will elect a board of library trustees and appropriate the money necessary to secure the gift of one hundred dollars' worth of books from the State."

2. The board of trustees may consist of any number of persons divisible by three, and they must be elected by ballot, one-third to serve for one year, one-third for two years and one-third for three years. (See chapter 304, Acts of 1888, as amended by chapter 112, Acts of 1889.)

3. The amount of money to be annually provided by the town to secure the gift of one hundred dollars' worth of books is not less than \$15 if the last-assessed valuation of the town is less than \$250,000; \$25 if the valuation is less than \$1,000,000 and not less than \$250,000; and \$50 if the valuation is \$1,000,000 or over. Suitable provision must be made for the care, custody and distribution of the books. (See chapter 347, Acts of 1890.)

The following blank forms are appended for a proper certification of the action of the town : —

CERTIFICATE OF TOWN CLERK.

To the Free Public Library Commission.

I hereby certify that at a legal town meeting of the town of _____ held on the _____ day of _____ 1891, the following-named persons were elected by ballot a board of library trustees for the terms specified against each name : —

I further certify that the last-assessed valuation of the town is _____ and that the town voted to provide an annual sum of not less than _____ dollars for the care and maintenance of a free public library.

Town clerk of

CERTIFICATE OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES.

The board of library trustees of the town of _____ hereby certify that they have made the following provision for the care, custody and distribution of the books presented by the State. [Here state in detail what room has been provided, and what other provisions have been made.]

Chairman Library Trustees, town of

Date

SELECTION OF BOOKS.

Before the selection of books has been made for any town the special characteristics and necessities of the locality have been carefully considered by some member of the commission.

If any collection of books existed in the town to which any considerable number of the people had access, a list of such books has been secured, to avoid duplicating them, in order that all the books supplied by the State should be new to the people the library was to serve. The situation of the town, whether inland or on the sea-coast, and the special industries of its people, have also been considered. The trustees have been urged to make suggestions as to the character of the books most useful and desirable to the people they represent, and to furnish lists of such books as they considered of special value. In brief, the commission has sought to send to each locality the books best suited to the individual needs of its people; hence no two lists of books have been identical, and most of the lists have been selected independently of any other.

The commission, in making the final decision upon each list, has had in mind the provision of reading that should be healthy in tone, pure and attractive in style, of educational value, and fitted to stimulate a love for the reading of good literature. American history, local and general, and nature-study in its varied forms, have had particular prominence given them. The universal expressions of approval and appreciation, which have come from the towns receiving the books, have shown gratifying evidence that good books are welcome to the homes which have heretofore been beyond the reach of free library privileges.

PURCHASE OF BOOKS.

Much time and effort have been given to securing at the lowest prices the books supplied. In some instances the public spirit of publishers has been appealed to, with generous result. Special sales of books at low prices have been watched with vigilance, and the largest possible number of good books has been secured for the money, irrespective of the number of sources from which they were gathered, or the time and patience which such a course necessarily required. The original bills of the books purchased for each town have been certified by the chairman and paid from the treasury. Each volume supplied by the Commonwealth has a label indicating the fact.

The commission has paid from its contingent fund the cost of labelling, packing and transporting all the books it has sup-

plied, so that the gifts of the State have been delivered to the towns free of all expense. It has also printed library cards, which have been supplied in suitable quantities, free, to all those towns that desired them.

LIBRARY ECONOMY.

Information has been freely given and suggestions made as to the simplest and most inexpensive methods of shelving and caring for books, the easiest methods for their most general distribution to the people, and of charging, cataloguing and other details relating to the general administration and proper records of a library.

TOWN APPROPRIATIONS.

Several of the towns have made generous appropriations in excess of the amount required by the statute. In some cases the appropriation has been largely absorbed in providing cases and room for the books, while in many instances it has been expended to increase the number of books. Several towns have sought the aid of the commission in the selection and purchase of books from their own funds, and in such cases assistance has been freely rendered.

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS.

One of the most gratifying results of the operation of the new law has been the generous interest that has been manifested by associations and individuals in the formation and increase of libraries in the towns to which it applies. The systematic encouragement and utilization of this interest, through the commission, has secured an aggregate of over fourteen hundred volumes which have been distributed to the towns, in addition to those purchased by the State. In some instances associations have turned over their collections of books as a gift to the town libraries; in others the local granges have made generous appropriations of money from their treasuries to be expended for reference and other books; and, in still other cases, natives of the towns residing elsewhere, or persons of wealth temporarily resident in the towns for health or pleasure, have given generous and welcome aid. These gifts will be more particularly noted in the detailed statement relating to each new library formed, which is appended to this report.

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION.

As the Free Public Library Commission of Massachusetts was the pioneer commission of the kind, it may not be inappropriate to note that a similar commission was established by the last legislature of the State of New Hampshire. Its members have recently been appointed and will soon begin work.

INQUIRIES FROM OTHER STATES.

The Massachusetts law, has quickened the free library interest in other localities. In evidence of this fact it may be stated that the commission has been asked, by letter and by personal interviews, for information with regard to the formation of new libraries or the construction of library buildings in each of the New England States and New York; while requests for its first report and other information about its work have been made from nearly every State of the Union — even from the new State of Washington on the Pacific slope — and from various parts of Great Britain and continental Europe.

TOWNS CLASSIFIED AS TO LIBRARIES.

The following classification of the towns, revised to date, shows the free library facilities they now enjoy:—

CLASS 1.

Towns which have libraries owned and controlled by the town, and free for circulation to all the people.

Abington,	Beverly,	Canton,
Adams,	Blackstone,	Carlisle,
Agawam,	Blandford,	Charlemont,
Alford,	Bolton,	Charlton,
Andover,	Boston,	Chatham,
Arlington,	Bourne,	Chelsea,
Ashburnham,	Boxborough,	Chesterfield,
Ashby,	Boylston,	Chicopee,
Ashland,	Bridgewater,	Chilmark,
Athol,	Brimfield,	Clinton,
Attleborough,	Brockton,	Cohasset,
Auburn,	Brookfield,	Dalton,
Ayer,	Brookline,	Dedham,
Belmont,	Burlington,	Douglas,
Berlin,	Cambridge,	Dunstable,

East Bridgewater,	Medford,	Quincy,
Eastham,	Melrose,	Randolph,
Edgartown,	Mendon,	Reading,
Egremont,	Merrimac,	Revere,
Erving,	Middleborough,	Richmond,
Everett,	Middlefield,	Rochester,
Fall River,	Middleton,	Rockland,
Falmouth,	Milford,	Rowe,
Fitchburg,	Millbury,	Rowley,
Foxborough,	Millis,	Royalston,
Framingham,	Milton,	Rutland,
Gill,	Montague,	Sandwich,
Goshen,	Monterey,	Saugus,
Granby,	Mt. Washington,	Sharon,
Greenfield,	Nahant,	Sheffield,
Greenwich,	Natick,	Sherborn,
Groton,	Needham,	Shirley,
Groveland,	New Ashford,	Shrewsbury,
Halifax,	New Bedford,	Somerville,
Hamilton,	New Braintree,	Southborough,
Hampden,	Newburyport,	Southbridge,
Hanover,	New Salem,	Southwick,
Harvard,	Newton,	Spencer,
Hatfield,	Norfolk,	Sterling,
Holbrook,	North Adams,	Stoneham,
Holden,	Northampton,	Stoughton,
Holliston,	North Andover,	Sturbridge,
Hopedale,	North Attleborough,	Sudbury,
Hubbardston,	Northborough,	Sunderland,
Hudson,	North Brookfield,	Sutton,
Hull,	Northfield,	Swampscott,
Hyde Park,	North Reading,	Taunton,
Lancaster,	Norwood,	Templeton,
Lanesborough,	Orange,	Tewksbury,
Leicester,	Orleans,	Topsfield,
Leominster,	Otis,	Townsend,
Leverett,	Oxford,	Tyngsborough,
Lowell,	Paxton,	Tyringham,
Ludlow,	Peabody,	Upton,
Lunenburg,	Pelham,	Uxbridge,
Lynn,	Pepperell,	Wakefield,
Manchester,	Peru,	Walpole,
Mansfield,	Petersham,	Waltham,
Marblehead,	Phillipston,	Warwick,
Marlborough,	Plainfield,	Watertown,
Mashpee,	Plymouth,	Wayland,
Mattapoisett,	Plympton,	Webster,
Maynard,	Pre-cott,	Wenham,
Medfield,	Provincetown,	Westborough,

West Boylston,	West Springfield,	Wilmington,
West Bridgewater,	West Stockbridge,	Winchendon,
West Brookfield,	Weymouth,	Winchester,
Westford,	Whately,	Windsor,
Westminster,	Whitman,	Winthrop,
Weston,	Williamstown,	Worcester,— 211.
Westport,		

CLASS 2.

Towns which have free libraries in which the town has some representation in the management.

Acton,	Danvers,	Lexington,
Amesbury,	Easthampton,	Lincoln,
Barre,	Enfield,	Littleton,
Bedford,	Franklin,	Malden,
Belchertown,	Georgetown,	Norton,
Bernardston,	Grafton,	Salem,
Bradford,	Haverhill,	Springfield,
Braintree,	Hingham,	Warren,
Concord,	Holyoke,	Woburn,— 29.
Cummington,	Lawrence,	

CLASS 3.

Towns in which there are libraries to which the town appropriates money, but is not represented in the management.

Amherst,	Lee,	Pittsfield,
Ashfield,	Lenox,	Princeton,
Boxford,	Leyden,	Stockbridge,
Cottage City,	Monson,	Wellesley,
Duxbury,	Northbridge,	Westfield,
Gardner,	Palmer,	Westhampton,
Great Barrington,	Pembroke,	Worthington,— 22.
Hinsdale,		

CLASS 4.

Towns in which there are free libraries which have no connection with the town.

Barnstable,	Harwich,	Raynham,
Becket,	Hopkinton,	Rehoboth,
Billerica,	Ipswich,	Savoy,
Buckland,	Kingston,	Scituate,
Deerfield,	Marion,	Ware,
Easton,	Methuen,	Wareham,
Gloucester,	Oakham,	Yarmouth,— 21.

CLASS 5.

Towns which have libraries owned by the town but which charge a fee.

Conway,	Rockport,— 2.
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CLASS 6.

Towns having no free library.

Acushnet,	Gay Head,	Russell,
Avon,	Gosnold,	Salisbury,
Bellingham,	Granville,	Sandisfield,
Berkley,	Hadley,	Seekonk,
Brewster,	Hancock,	Shelburne,
Carver,	Hanson,	Shutesbury,
Chelmsford,	Hardwick,	Somerset,
Cheshire,	Hawley,	Southampton,
Chester,	Heath,	South Hadley,
Clarksburg,	Holland,	Stow,
Colrain,	Huntington,	Swansea,
Dana,	Lakeville,	Tisbury,
Dartmouth,	Longmeadow,	Tolland,
Dennis,	Lynnfield,	Truro,
Dighton,	Marshfield,	Wales,
Dover,	Medway,	Washington,
Dracut,	Monroe,	Wellfleet,
Dudley,	Montgomery,	Wendell,
Essex,	Nantucket,	West Newbury,
Fairhaven,	Newbury,	Wilbraham,
Florida,	New Marlborough,	Williamsburg,
Freetown,	Norwell,	Wrentham, — 66.

It appears from the above classification that of the 351 towns and cities in the State, 211 contain free public libraries that are entirely under municipal control; 29 contain libraries the use of which is entirely free and in the management of which the municipality is in some form represented; 22 contain libraries to which the town or city appropriates money but over which it has no control. Most of these libraries are free for circulation, but a few are free only for reference. Twenty-one towns contain free public libraries that are supported entirely by private benefaction and with which the municipality has no official connection; 2 have libraries which are somewhat anomalous, inasmuch as they are owned and controlled by the towns, but are not free, a small fee being charged the citizens for the use of the books; and 66 towns have no public library, though in a few even of this class small association libraries exist.

All the towns in the State, except those enumerated in Class 1, seem to be entitled to the benefit of the State appropriation, if they will establish free town libraries under full municipal control.

FREE LIBRARIES BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

One of the happiest results of private effort during the year has been the establishment of a free library in the town of Wareham. Its inception is wholly due to the generosity of a summer resident, Miss Anna Sears Amory of Boston, who has borne the entire expense of establishing a reading-room, well supplied with current periodicals, and has provided a library of nearly a thousand volumes of the best popular and useful books. The use of the library is entirely free, and the ladies of the town have undertaken the care of its administration.

The summer residents at Nantasket, under the lead of Mrs. Hetty S. Cunningham, also of Boston, have established a library of several hundred volumes for the free use of the people in that vicinity. The cost has been borne by a subscription from the permanent residents and the occupants of summer homes in the vicinity, and the locality is one in which it will prove to be of great value. It has been a pleasure for the commission to afford some slight aid in the selection and purchase of books for both these libraries.

NOTES OF LIBRARY PROGRESS.

Mr. Frederick F. Ayer of New York has purchased a convenient site and will erect upon it a beautiful library building for the town of Ayer. The Bradford Library Association opened its free library on the 5th of January, 1892, with 2,000 volumes on its shelves. Mr. William M. Pritchard of New York has given \$5,000 to the Free Public Library of Concord, the income of which is to be devoted to the purchase of books and illustrations in the departments of history and the fine arts. The late T. O. H. P. Burnham of Boston bequeathed to his native town of Essex \$20,000 for the erection of a town hall and library building, and an additional \$20,000, in trust, for the purchase of books. The town has also been notified that it will receive under the will of the late Dr. Russ of New York, a native of the town, a sum stated at nearly \$40,000 for the purpose of establishing a public library. The late William Shute of Lynn left by his will \$10,000 for the erection of a library building in the town of Everett, under certain conditions. Mr. H. H. Rogers is now

putting up an expensive and attractive library building for his native town of Fairhaven. Mrs. Charlotte A. L. Sibley, widow of John Langdon Sibley, who was for nearly half a century connected with the library of Harvard College, has given the town of Groton a lot of land and \$5,000 towards the erection of a library building thereon, the town having complied with the condition of appropriating \$15,000 towards the building, of which the construction has been begun. The Hingham Social Library has given its 3,000 volumes to the Hingham Public Library. A handsome brown-stone library building has been erected at Lawrence, having a capacity of 100,000 volumes, at an expense of about \$70,000, borne by Mrs. N. G. White and her daughter, Miss Elizabeth A. White. The city of Lowell has nearly completed a fine granite library building, which will be ready for use the coming year. The Flint Public Library at Middleton was dedicated Nov. 11, 1891; it was named in honor of the late Hon. Charles L. Flint, whose gifts to the library amounted to \$16,400. Work has been begun during the year upon the Forbes Library Building at Northampton, which is to cost about \$100,000. A new library building has been erected in Rochester, towards the construction of which Mrs. E. G. Leonard has given \$2,000. A movement has been inaugurated to raise \$10,000 for the purpose of establishing a library and erecting a building in Tisbury. The Tufts' Library in Weymouth will soon rejoice in a new home, which has been built at a cost of about \$20,000.

By the death of beneficiaries the Free Public Library of the city of Worcester comes into possession of thirty shares of bank stock worth about \$4,500, a bequest under the will of Dr. John Green, the founder of its reference library. The bequest is to be allowed to increase until it becomes \$20,000; then one-quarter of the income is to be added to the principal, as in the case of Dr. Green's bequest of \$30,000, before available, and three-quarters to go towards paying the salary of the librarian. The fund of \$30,000, left by Dr. Green, now amounts to about \$45,000.

PEOPLE STILL WITHOUT FREE LIBRARIES.

The population of Massachusetts, according to the United States census of 1890, was 2,238,943, and the sixty-six towns which still have no free public library contained a population of 92,439, so that about four and one-eighth per cent. of our people are now without this blessing. Most of these towns are declining in population and valuation, and sorely need the aid which the free library law was designed to confer.

The policy of the commission has been to establish libraries only so fast as the towns were fully convinced of the wisdom of such action and as the people demanded the additional educational advantages which a free public library can alone supply. It is believed that every library thus far established under the new law rests upon this firm foundation; that the future growth and usefulness of these libraries are assured by the welcome which they have received from all classes of citizens, and that the wisdom of the law which places a free public library for the first time in any town will find speedy justification in widened and purified channels of the moral, intellectual and domestic life of the people.

Appended to this report will be found a detailed statement relating to the libraries that have been established by the commission, the law under which it was established, and the laws relating to the choice of library trustees.

C. B. TILLINGHAST.
ANNA E. TICKNOR.
SAMUEL SWETT GREEN.
HENRY S. NOURSE.
ELIZABETH P. SOHIER.

BOSTON, Jan. 30, 1892.

APPENDIX.

FACTS ABOUT THE NEW LIBRARIES.

The following statistics of the new libraries and the towns in which they were formed may be suggestive to other towns of similar size and conditions. The county relations of the towns in which libraries have been formed under the new law and those which still have no free libraries are as follows : —

	NEW LIBRARIES.	NO FREE LIBRARY.
Barnstable,	4	4
Berkshire,	12	6
Bristol,	1	10
Dukes,	2	3
Essex,	2	5
Franklin,	2	7
Hampden,	4	9
Hampshire,	6	5
Middlesex,	1	3
Nantucket,	—	1
Norfolk,	—	5
Plymouth,	1	5
Suffolk,	—	—
Worcester,	1	3
	<hr/> 36	<hr/> 66

AGAWAM.

The town of Agawam, Hampden County, is mainly a farming community, but contains some manufactories of paper and woollens. It includes three villages, Feeding Hills, Agawam and Mittineague, the two first named having post-offices and town halls. The population of the town is 2,352; number of families, 518; area, 14,080 acres; valuation, \$1,226,298; and tax rate, \$13.50 per \$1,000.

The Feeding Hills Library Association has maintained a small library at that village for some years; and the rivalry between the different villages relative to the location of the new library was most happily solved by establishing a branch library at each village, and by the generous action of the Feeding Hills Library Association in donating its books to the town library.

The several branches of the Agawam Free Public Library are as follows: Feeding Hills, opened to the public Sept. 12, 1891, in the town hall building, hours, Thursdays, from 3.30 to 4.30 o'clock P.M. Julia A. Bailey librarian; Mittineague, opened Oct. 5, 1891, in an unused school building, hours, Mondays, 7 P.M., John E. Crowley librarian; Agawam, opened Oct. 9, 1891, in the town hall building, hours, Fridays, 3.30 to 4.30 P.M., Carrie S. Leonard librarian. The care of the several libraries is entirely voluntary. The entire number of volumes is 480, of which 269 were given by the Feeding Hills Library Association, and several by Mrs. John E. Lodge of Boston, and Hon. E. B. Hayes of Lynn. Among other donors have been the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Agawam, the Lodge of Good Templars of Agawam, Mr. Francis C. Sessions (who contributed four volumes of his own works), James E. Stuart and Miss H. M. Bodurtha.

Children are admitted to the full privileges of the library at the age of twelve. The number of cards issued to book takers since the beginning is 229, of which 88 were at the Agawam branch, 67 at Feeding Hills and 74 at Mitteneague. The total circulation has been 1,072 volumes, of which 418 were at Agawam, 397 at Feeding Hills and 257 at Mitteneague. The distribution of the books through the branch libraries has proved very useful, and, it is estimated, has more than doubled the circulation. Books of travel, adventure and fiction are most sought for, and the works of Charles Carleton Coffin, Thomas W. Knox and Edward Everett Hale have been specially in demand. One of the trustees — a physician — writes: "I hear pleasant words everywhere in regard to the books and the library, and see in more than one-half the homes I visit some of the books." The trustees are: William H. Porter, term expires April 1, 1892; Judson W. Hastings, term expires April 1, 1893; and Henry Annable, term expires April 1, 1894.

ALFORD.

The town of Alford, Berkshire County, contains 7,186 taxable acres. Its population is 297, each census since 1860 having shown a decrease; number of families, 84; valuation, \$218,382; tax rate, \$10.00 per \$1,000. It is mainly an agricultural and grazing town, though it contains some marble quarries.

The Alford Free Library was opened for public use Feb. 1, 1892, with about 300 volumes on its shelves. It is open on Wednesdays, from 2 to 5 o'clock P.M.; and on Saturdays, from 2 to 8 P.M. The library is kept at the residence of the librarian, Mrs. Lucinda P. Dailey, whose service is voluntary. The old district library has

been placed in the free library; quite a number of gifts have been received and others are anticipated. The trustees are James H. Edwards, Mary Williams and Frank Kline, whose terms expire April 1, 1892; Lester T. Osborne, John Lewis Milligan and Mrs. William R. Moore, whose terms expire April 1, 1893; Walter H. Ticknor, Charles H. Smith and Almira Smith, whose terms expire April 1, 1894.

BERLIN.

The people of Berlin, Worcester County, are mainly devoted to agriculture. It contains 7,642 taxable acres. Its population is 871, each census since 1860 having shown a decline; number of families, 219; valuation, \$504,572; tax rate, \$9.00 per \$1,000.

The Berlin Free Public Library was opened July 11, 1891, and books are delivered to persons over fourteen years of age, every Saturday, from 7 to 9 o'clock p.m. It contains about 300 volumes, of which a portion were given by the Grange and quite a number of volumes by several citizens of the town. Mrs. Cordelia Hastings of South Berlin has given \$100 for the purchase of books. The library is kept in the selectmen's rooms at the town hall; Sarah J. Hastings is librarian. One hundred and ninety-nine cards have been issued and 1,241 books circulated. The works of Scott, Dickens and C. C. Coffin appear to have been most sought for. The superintendent of schools and the teachers have been consulted in the choice of books, and special purchases have been made for the use of the schools, to help the teachers directly and to supplement the historical and geographical studies of the school curriculum. The chairman of the trustees advises that the library should be kept as much as possible before the public, by frequent items in the local papers and other available methods. A neat and inexpensive broadside list of the books has been printed, which would be a good model for other small libraries to follow. The trustees and the date of the expiration of their terms of office are as follows: Rev. G. F. Pratt, March 1, 1894; Hon. William Bassett, 1893; and Frank H. Crossman, 1892.

BLANDFORD.

Blandford, Hampden County, is a large town territorially, containing about 30,427 acres. It contains two villages and post-offices, Blandford and North Blandford. It is mainly a stock-raising and dairy town, though there are some other industries at North Blandford. Each census since 1830 shows a decline in population, with the exception of that of 1880. The present population is 871; number of families, 230; valuation, \$384,870; tax rate, \$19.00 per \$1,000.

The Free Public Library of Blandford is now nearly ready to be

opened for use, sickness and other unforeseen causes having occasioned some delay. The number of volumes is 1,125, of which 867 have been given by Mrs. J. E. S. Porter of New Haven, Conn., who has a summer residence in the town. Mrs. Porter has taken much interest in the intellectual and moral welfare of the people, and many of the books she now donates have been heretofore generously loaned to the public. She now proposes to continue her interest by erecting a library building for the town. Mrs. Samuel D. Warren of Boston, the daughter of a former clergyman in the town, has given 117 volumes, and numerous other friends have been among the donors. The library will be kept at the parsonage under the care of the resident clergyman, who has undertaken its care without charge, until the new library building is completed. The books were covered by volunteers. The chairman of the trustees writes: "As a people we are very happy in the prospect of a good library in a good permanent home. We feel that the generosity of friends in regard to it has been very marked." The board of trustees is constituted as follows: William E. Hinsdale, term expires in 1894; Wallace H. Deane, M. D., term expires in 1893; and Harriet M. Hinsdale, term expires in 1892.

BOURNE.

The town of Bourne, Barnstable County, was set off from Sandwich and incorporated in 1884. Its taxable acreage is 8,953; valuation, \$1,306,165; tax rate, \$10.00 per \$1,000; population, 1,442; number of families, 362. Its people are mainly devoted to agriculture and the fisheries, and there are quite a number of summer residents.

The Bourne Free Public Library was opened to the public Dec. 7, 1891. The present number of volumes is 239; the number of cards issued the first month was 47, and the number of books taken out 135. Children are admitted to its privileges at the age of twelve, and the members of the high school have free access to the library for reference, as it is kept in the high school building. The library is open every day, from 12 to 1 and from 4 to 6 o'clock. The books have been covered, labelled and made ready for circulation by volunteers. Anna M. Starbuck is the librarian, and the trustees and the date of the expiration of their terms are as follows: M. C. Waterhouse, April 28, 1894; L. R. Leavitt, 1893; and Rev. N. H. Chamberlayne, 1892.

BOXBOROUGH.

Boxborough is a small farming town in Middlesex County, and contains no post-office. Its population is 325; number of families, 84; valuation, \$240,319; tax rate, \$10.20 per \$1,000; area, about 7,000 acres.

The Boxborough Free Public Library was opened to public use June 6, 1891, at the residence of J. H. Orendorff; and Mrs. Orendorff serves as the librarian, without compensation. Its use is free to all over twelve years of age; and it is open each Saturday, from 2 to 5 and 6 to 8.30 o'clock P.M. The library contains 339 volumes, of which a catalogue has been printed. Sixty cards have been issued and 396 books have been circulated, the monthly rate of increase being over thirty per cent. Fiction and books for young people have been most in demand. In addition to the books furnished by the State, 40 volumes have been given by the American Unitarian Association, 35 were purchased for the library by the Boxborough Grange, and 53 were purchased with the proceeds of an entertainment given for the purpose. The trustees are: Mrs. A. W. Wetherbee and Miss M. B. Priest, whose terms expire in April, 1892; J. H. Orendorff and Mrs. C. H. Burroughs, whose terms expire in 1893; and A. Littlefield and Mrs. S. B. Hayes, whose terms expire in 1894.

CHARLEMONT.

The town of Charlemont, in the picturesque valley of the Deerfield, Franklin County, contains the villages of Charlemont, East Charlemont and Zoar. Its people are mainly devoted to agricultural pursuits. Population, 972; families, 253; taxable acreage, 15,946; valuation, \$349,906; tax rate, \$18.00 per \$1,000.

The Charlemont Free Public Library is about to be opened to public use at the store of Mr. George E. Bemis, in the village of Charlemont. It is probable that branches will be established in the other villages. The present number of volumes is 241, among the gifts being 20 volumes from William D. Sohier of Beverly and several from Mrs. John E. Lodge of Boston. It is expected that the Charlemont Library Association, which was formed in 1879 and now owns 490 volumes, will donate its books to the town library at its annual meeting in February. Mr. Orlando B. Potter, a wealthy resident of New York City, who was born in Charlemont, has given indication of his intention to erect a library building for the town. The trustees chosen for the library are: George E. Bemis, term expires March, 1892; Amos L. Avery, term expires March, 1893; and Rev. E. L. Clark, term expires March, 1894. The last-named will probably vacate his office by removal from the town.

CHILMARK.

Chilmark, Dukes County, contains an assessed acreage of 10,060. Its valuation is \$214,859; tax rate, \$10.00 on \$1,000; population, 353; number of families, 126. Its people are mainly devoted to agri-

culture and the fisheries. Every census since 1850, except the State census of 1875, has shown a decline in population.

The Chilmark Town Library was opened Aug. 15, 1891. It is kept in a store, and is open every week-day during business hours. It contains 263 volumes, of which about 100 were given by Miss Alice Stone Blackwell of Boston. The number of cards issued has been 83, and 462 books have been taken out. Fiction, biography and books of adventure have been specially sought for, as well as books upon yachting, and the personal memoirs of Grant, Sherman and Sheridan. Children are allowed the use of the library as soon as they can properly use and care for the books. Florence B. Mayhew is the librarian, and the trustees are Beriah T. Hillman, F. H. Reed and Florence B. Mayhew.

EDGARTOWN.

The people of the sea-girt town of Edgartown, Dukes County, are mostly engaged in fishing or navigation, though there are a number of farms and some woodland in the town. It contains 11,508 taxable acres. Its population is 1,156; number of families, 378; valuation, \$735,492; and tax-rate, \$15.00 on \$1,000. The Edgartown Free Public Library has only recently been opened for public use, with over three hundred volumes. It is kept in a dry-goods store on the main street of the town, so as to be easily accessible to all the people. The trustees, and their terms of service, are John N. Pierce and Florence Mayhew, three years; Cyrus H. Pease and Myra Walker, two years; William E. Marchant and Laura Mellen, one year.

EGREMONT.

Egremont is located on the easterly slope of the Taconic range of mountains in the south-western section of Berkshire County. Agriculture and grazing comprise the main interests of its people. It contains 11,133 taxable acres, a population of 845, and 209 families. Its valuation is \$425,100; tax rate, \$10.60 per \$1,000.

The Egremont Free Library was opened Feb. 15, 1892, with 221 volumes. It is kept at the post-office in South Egremont and is open every week day. Thirty-nine cards were issued to persons over fifteen years of age as soon as the library was opened. E. G. Harrington is the librarian, and the entire care of the library has been without expense. The trustees are E. G. Harrington, three years; James H. Rowley, two years; and Frank D. Rowe, one year.

FALMOUTH.

The pleasant sea-board town of Falmouth, Barnstable County, attracts many summer residents, while the occupations of its perma-

ment population are largely related to the interests of the fisheries. Its tax-paying area comprises 21,900 acres; population 2,567; number of families, 620; valuation, \$5,000,463; tax rate, \$6.50 per \$1,000.

The Falmouth Free Public Library was opened April 11, 1891, and contains 122 volumes, of which 24 were the gift of Mr. E. Pierson Beebe. Falmouth has an association library of some 3,000 volumes, and the public library is for the present kept with that in a room in the town hall building. It is hoped that the two may be combined with the result that the whole people will receive the benefit of the entire collection. It is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4 to 6 and from 7 to 9 P.M., and it is cared for by Miss Clara L. Davis of the Association Library, without expense. The total circulation from April 11, 1891, to Feb. 1, 1892, was 160 volumes, fiction and biography being most sought for.

The trustees, with the dates of the expiration of their terms, are Seba A. Holton, March, 1892; George E. Clarke, 1893; and E. Pierson Beebe, 1894.

GOSHEN.

The small farming town of Goshen, Hampshire County, has a population of 297. It has 78 families and 11,400 taxable acres. Its valuation is \$138,076 and tax rate \$16.67 per \$1,000. The first annual report of the trustees of the Goshen Free Public Library states that the prevailing sickness of the past winter has interfered somewhat with the circulation of the books, but that on the whole it has been fairly well patronized, is increasing in favor and will prove a lasting benefit to the people, old and young.

It contains 296 volumes, of which 47 were the gift of Lewis Warner of Northampton, and 54 from Miss Julia Joy of Philadelphia. The town has provided a suitable room for the accommodation of the library in the town hall building. F. E. Hawks is librarian and Mary E. Robinson assistant. One of the trustees writes that the books "are giving excellent satisfaction, the memoirs and war stories being read first, while the travels and natural history series take better with the young people than story books."

The trustees are George Dresser and Mrs. J. H. Godfrey, three years; J. R. Mollison, two years; and F. E. Hawks, Hon. Alvan Barrus and Mrs. George L. Kellogg (chosen to fill a vacancy), whose terms expire in 1892.

GRANBY.

The people of the town of Granby, Hampshire County, are mainly farmers. The town contains about 16,591 acres; its valuation is

\$423,588; tax rate, \$14.00 on \$1,000; population, 765; number of families, 177.

The Granby Free Public Library was opened for use Dec. 16, 1891, and contains 426 volumes. The Granby Grange gave over one hundred dollars' worth of books; F. E. Taylor presented a set of Appleton's Encyclopedia, and there have been a considerable number of other books donated to the library. When the town hall was built a room was provided for a town library, which will be large enough to accommodate it for some time to come. The library is open Wednesdays from 2 to 3.30 and Saturdays from 7 to 8.30 P.M. At present Mr. W. A. Taylor, chairman of the board of trustees, is acting as librarian, and others are ready to share the work; thus the entire care of the library is a voluntary service, and all the funds are devoted to the purchase of books and other necessary expenses. About seventy cards had been issued to book takers and 150 books circulated, the library having been open only seven times when this report was made. One of the trustees writes that "The present indications are that the citizens of this town will be well satisfied with their library and that it will be well sustained." The trustees are Mrs. E. I. Aldrich and Arthur W. Fiske, whose terms expire in 1894; Mrs. S. B. Dickinson and W. S. Clark, whose terms expire in 1893; and Mrs. George F. Eastman, Mrs. George N. Smith, Dr. H. S. Bell, D. F. Chapin and W. A. Taylor, whose terms expire in 1892.

GREENWICH.

Greenwich is a farming town in the north-eastern part of Hampshire County. Its taxable area is 11,400 acres. Its population is 526; number of families, 141; valuation, \$274,972; and tax rate, \$13.00 on \$1,000.

The Greenwich Public Library was opened Sept. 19, 1891, and contains over 300 volumes, of which a catalogue has been printed. It is kept in Farmers' Hall at Greenwich Village, is open every Saturday from 3 to 5 and from 7 to 8 P.M.; 110 cards have been issued and 681 books circulated. Fannie P. Walker is librarian.

Its trustees are William S. Douglas and Miss Fannie P. Walker, three years; W. H. Walker and Miss Amelia M. Root, two years; and W. H. Glazier and Mrs. S. G. Crowell, one year.

HAMILTON.

The pleasant rural town of Hamilton, Essex County, contains 200 families, a population of 961, and has a taxable area of 8,650 acres. Its valuation is \$871,537 and its tax rate is \$8.40 on \$1,000. The

public library of the town of Hamilton was opened for use July 1, 1891, and contains about 500 volumes. Among the gifts have been twenty volumes from M. K. Abbott of Boston, a hundred volumes from George G. Creamer, thirty volumes from Horace Burnham of Sacramento, California, and from one to ten books each from a number of residents of the town. The number of cards issued to book takers has been 174, and the number of books taken out increases weekly, as many as fifty books having been taken out on one day. The library is kept in a room in the "Woodbury House," which is quite centrally located. Annie E. Woodbury is the librarian, and the library is open Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 2 to 4 and from 7 to 9 p.m. Among the books that have been most in demand are the personal memoirs of Grant, Sheridan and Sherman, Parkman's Histories, and the works of Hawthorne, Dr. Holmes, Charles Carleton Coffin and Mrs. Jane G. Austin.

One of the trustees writes: "Our library has proved very popular with all classes and the books are read with great interest." The trustees are A. P. Gardner, one year; O. F. Brown, two years; and Frank V. Wright, three years.

HAMPDEN.

The taxable acreage of the town of Hampden, Hampden County, is 11,752; valuation, \$404,823; tax rate, \$12.00 per \$1,000; population, 831; number of families, 215. It contains many good farms, but there are three woollen mills and some minor industries at the village, which is near the geographical centre of the town.

The Hampden Public Library was opened for use Aug. 1, 1891. The library contains 325 books, among the gifts having been thirty-one volumes from the Rev. Calvin Stebbins and five from Francis C. Sessions; the town has also appropriated \$60 for the purchase of books. The books are kept at the residence of the town clerk near the centre of the village, and Mrs. John Q. Adams is the librarian. The library is open every alternate Saturday from 3 to 8 o'clock p.m.

The ladies volunteered to cover the books. The number of book takers has been about 96 and the total circulation 1,019. Historical works and story books are most in demand, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," the "Boys' Handy Book" and "Standish of Standish" being specially popular. There has been some talk of the provision of a building for the library, but no action has yet been taken. One of the trustees writes that the library has been well patronized, more especially by the young people; that the people are well pleased with it and prize it highly. The trustees are John N. Isham, term expires 1894; Arthur H. Bennett, 1893; and Alonzo B. Newell, 1892.

LEVERETT.

The mountainous farming town of Leverett, Franklin County, has a taxable acreage of 12,846, a valuation of \$284,476, a population of 702, and 208 families. Its tax rate is \$15.00 per \$1,000.

The Leverett Public Library was opened Aug. 10, 1891, and contains 263 volumes, a considerable number of which were the gift of different individuals. A catalogue of the books has been printed. There are two villages in the town, Leverett and North Leverett, and a branch library has been established at North Leverett, which greatly increases the facilities for the use of books to the people of that section of the town. The libraries are open every Monday from 7 to 9 P.M., and every Friday from 3 to 6 P.M. The librarians are Mrs. C. F. Young and Mrs. H. L. Boutwell, and the books are kept at private houses. Children are admitted to the full privileges of the library at the age of fifteen. The number of cards issued to book takers has been 82 and the total circulation 485 volumes, there having been a steady increase from the beginning. The books most sought for have been books of adventure, Charles Carleton Coffin's books on the civil war and "Uncle Tom's Cabin." The chairman of the trustees writes: "The library is a grand institution. The author of the bill passed by the last Legislature deserves the thanks of the people in the small towns." The trustees are H. W. Field, C. F. Frary and H. L. Boutwell, whose terms expire March, 1892; Mrs. C. H. Field, H. C. Porter and E. W. Buckmaster, whose terms expire March, 1893; and Lucia M. Field, W. L. Boutwell and Mrs. R. A. Dudley, whose terms expire March, 1894.

MASHPEE.

The town of Mashpee, Barnstable County, contains a population of 298, and has 75 families, nearly all of its inhabitants being of Indian descent. It has a taxable acreage of 13,501; valuation, \$173,350; tax rate, \$13.40 per \$1,000. It has two association libraries, and with the formation of the new town library is probably better supplied with good reading than some wealthier communities.

The Mashpee Free Public Library was opened Feb. 6, 1892, with 321 volumes, of which about 150 were donated by individuals. Col. H. W. Wilson gave 33 volumes, W. G. C. Salisbury 32, O. B. Dodge 39, Lyman B. Stanley 7, and 22 volumes were given through the Free Public Library Commission. The library has a good room in the new school building of the town, and is open Saturdays from 7 to 9 o'clock P.M. The trustees chosen to serve from March, 1891, are O. M. Holmes, three years; Darius Coombs, two years; and Alton Sanford, one year. The trustees have taken the entire care of the

library without expense, and it begins with a good circulation and a promise of usefulness.

MONTEREY.

Monterey is a farming town in southern Berkshire, sheep husbandry being one of its principal resources. It is nine miles from Great Barrington, the nearest railway station. Its taxable acres number 15,432, and it contains 495 inhabitants and has 141 families. Its valuation is \$225,551, and its tax rate is \$12.00 per \$1,000.

The Monterey Free Library was opened May 23, 1891, and contains 240 volumes, of which a neat catalogue has been printed. The Monterey Improvement Society has given 54 volumes. Children are admitted to the full privileges of the library at the age of twelve, and 87 cards have been issued. The works of Mrs. H. B. Stowe and Louisa M. Alcott have been in especial demand. The library has been fortunate in the gift of a building for its use by the Monterey Improvement Society, and it is open Wednesdays from 2 to 4 P.M., and Saturdays from 4 to 8 P.M. Amelia A. Bidwell is librarian and Henry W. Miner assistant. The care of the library is entirely voluntary. The trustees and the dates of the expiration of their terms of office are as follows: Dr. B. D. Pease and Miss Amelia A. Bidwell, 1892; G. L. Keyes and Helen L. Townsend, 1893; W. S. Bidwell and Mrs. B. D. Pease, 1894.

The chairman of the trustees writes: "Our library has been a success partly from the fact that the members of the Monterey Improvement Society have taken a special interest and have labored very hard to get others interested. They have donated the building, carpeted and papered and painted both inside and out. They have also furnished the room with a very nice office table and five chairs. One of our townspeople gave us a stove and pipe, another a chair, and two of the young men donated sufficient wood to last through the cold weather. A course of entertainments has been given during the winter for the benefit of the library. The net proceeds will be given to the library trustees, to invest as they see fit."

MOUNT WASHINGTON.

The town of Mount Washington contains within its borders some of the most striking and picturesque scenery in the State. Its taxable acreage is 12,504; valuation, \$79,669; tax rate, \$10.00 on \$1,000; population, 148; number of families, 38. The people are mainly devoted to farming.

The Mount Washington Free Library was opened July 5, 1891, and contains 245 volumes, 39 of which were the gift of Timothy L. Walsh, a summer sojourner from New York City. The

library is kept for the present in a room in the only church in the town, that being the most available centrally located place. It is open on Sundays from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M., and the total circulation up to the end of the year was 145 volumes. Howard D. Lamson is the librarian, and the entire care of the library has been voluntary. "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "The Lamplighter," the works of Dickens and Scott and the histories of the United States, have been the books most in demand. The trustees are Walter B. Wolcott and Mrs. F. B. Schutt, whose terms expire March, 1892; H. F. Keith and Mrs. H. F. Keith, March, 1893; Mrs. Lewis Melins and Howard D. Lamson, 1894.

NEW ASHFORD.

New Ashford is a mountainous farming town in the north-western part of Berkshire County. Its acres that are subject to taxation number 7,511; its population is 125; number of families, 40; valuation, \$70,740; and tax rate, \$15.20 on \$1,000.

The New Ashford Public Library was opened about the middle of June, 1891, with 208 volumes, and 183 books had been circulated up to the end of the year. It is kept at a private house, and is cared for by Mrs. C. S. Baker and W. H. Baxter, without expense. The day for opening the library was fixed for Thursdays, afternoon and evening; but, as the people are scattered and the library is kept at the home of the librarian, it has been decided to increase the convenience of its use by allowing people to take books whenever they can come to the library. The trustees and the date of the expiration of their terms are: Warren H. Baxter, April, 1892; Walter S. Baker, 1893; and Mrs. E. Ingraham, 1894.

OTIS.

The farming and grazing town of Otis, Berkshire County, has a taxable area of 21,315 acres, a large number of which are wooded. Its population is 583; number of families, 170; valuation, \$220,042; and tax rate, \$16.00 on \$1,000.

The Free Public Library of Otis was opened Oct. 30, 1891, with 208 volumes, and it is accessible for the delivery of books Friday afternoons and from 6.30 to 8 o'clock in the evening. It is kept at the house of the Rev. Arthur H. Somes, pastor of the Congregational church, and it is cared for by Mrs. Mary E. Somes, the pastor's wife, without expense. Up to the middle of February 69 cards had been issued and 114 books circulated. The pupils and teachers of the public schools are encouraged to take the books, and a large percentage of the readers are young people; history, biography and travels have taken the precedence of fiction in the books used, and

books relating to the civil war are eagerly sought for and read. The trustees are: John Merritt, term expires 1893; Edward Davidson, 1892; and Miss Frances Clark, 1894.

PELHAM.

The industries of Pelham, Hampshire County, are mainly farming and lumbering. It contains 14,088 taxable acres; its population is 486; number of families, 146; valuation, \$168,042; tax rate, \$19.00 per \$1,000.

The Free Public Library of Pelham was opened Aug. 22, 1891, with about 250 volumes, of which a catalogue is in print. The number of cards issued has been 68. The library is kept in a room in the town hall building, and one delivery station has been established in a distant part of the town. The classes of books most in demand have been histories and biographies, and the books that have proved specially popular have been "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Two Years before the Mast," and other sea stories. Mrs. Mary A. Keith serves as librarian without compensation, and the library is open from 2 to 4 o'clock every Saturday, that day having been chosen with special reference to the convenience of the teachers and pupils of the public schools. The trustees express the opinion that among the means of making a small library attractive and useful are the provision of books which shall be popular and at the same time instructive, and the delivery of books in parts of the town not having regular business connections with the centre. The trustees and the date of the expiration of their terms are: Eliza L. Haskins, 1892; M. Louise Brewer, 1893; and Mary A. Keith, 1894.

PERU.

The town of Peru, Berkshire County, is somewhat rugged in its physical features, and its people are mainly devoted to farming. Its tax list enumerates 16,009 acres; its population is 305; number of families, 86; valuation, \$119,906; tax rate, \$22.50 on \$1,000.

The Peru Town Library was opened to the public May 26, 1891, with 186 volumes, of which 21 were gifts from friends in Brooklyn, N. Y., Pittsfield, Hinsdale, Springfield, Washington and Peru. The number of books circulated up to the close of the year was 550, books of travel and fiction being most in demand. The library is kept in a store at the centre of the town, and is open every week day from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. F. G. Creamer serves as librarian without expense. The trustees and the date of the expiration of their terms of office are: Austin Stowell, March, 1894; C. M. Hatheway, 1893; and J. H. Geer, 1892.

PLAINFIELD.

The town of Plainfield, Hampshire County, while mainly a farming town, has some manufactories of wooden-ware, and other minor industries. It has 13,008 acres which are subject to taxation; its population is 435; number of families, 127; valuation, \$161,383; tax rate, \$17.50 per \$1,000.

The Plainfield Free Public Library was opened for use June 13, 1891, with 410 volumes, a catalogue of which has been printed. Among the gifts have been 15 volumes from Mr. Charles Dudley Warner and 30 volumes from Mrs. Martha J. Lamb, both of whom are natives of the town. Other donors have been William Holmes Hallock, 67 volumes; friends from Beverly, 30; Levi Clark, 14; Charles Hallock, 14; Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Woodhull, 12; and the town of Ashfield, 25 volumes.

The number of volumes circulated up to the close of the year was 579. The bound volumes of magazines have been most used, and next in order come books relating to the civil war and fiction. The library is kept at the house of Mrs. J. W. Sears, who cares for it without expense. It is open on Saturday of each week from 1 to 9 o'clock P.M. The trustees are: Rev. John A. Woodhull, term expires March 1, 1892; Mrs. J. W. Sears, 1893; and Mr. E. A. Atkins, 1894.

PLYMPTON.

The farming town of Plympton, Plymouth County, contains one cotton mill and a few other industries. It is taxed for 8,672 acres; its population is 597; number of families, 175; valuation, \$304,882; and tax rate, \$11.40 per \$1,000.

The Plympton Free Public Library was opened July 25, 1891, and contains 335 volumes, including 149 which were given by the Young Peoples' Literary Association of Plympton, and other gifts from Miss Anna C. Lowell of Boston, Hon. Elihu B. Hayes of Lynn, Bradford Kingman and others. The library is kept in the town house, and Miss B. W. Sherman is the librarian. It is open on Saturdays from 2 to 6 and from 7 to 9 P.M. Persons are admitted to the full privileges of the library at the age of twelve; 110 cards have been issued and 616 books circulated,—an average of 24 per week. The trustees state that a very general interest has been manifested in the library by the young people of the town. The trustees are: Charles H. Perkins, one year; Mrs. C. M. Frazer, two years; and John Sherman, three years.

PRESCOTT.

Prescott, Hampshire County, is a farming town, the population of which has steadily decreased since 1840. The number of its taxable acres is 10,803; population, 376; number of families, 112; valuation, \$166,995; and tax rate, \$13.00 on \$1,000.

The Prescott Free Public Library was opened Aug. 7, 1891, and contains 283 volumes, including a gift of 50 volumes from Mrs. Roger Wolcott of Boston, and other gifts from Hon. E. B. Hayes of Lynn and friends in Boston and Beverly. The library occupies a room in the town house, and is open every Saturday from 1 to 4 o'clock P.M. and also on town-meeting and election days. Henry L. Berry is the librarian. Children are admitted to the full privileges of the library at the age of ten; 104 cards have been issued, and the total circulation to the close of the year was 361 volumes. Fiction, history and biography have been the classes of books most sought for, and "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Lossing's histories and the magazines have been the books most in demand. The trustees are: Joseph M. Harrington and Waldo H. Pierce, terms expire April, 1894; Frederic N. Pierce and William F. Wendemuth, 1893; and Charles E. Houghton and Herman C. Powers, 1892.

RICHMOND.

The people of the town of Richmond, Berkshire County, are mainly devoted to agricultural pursuits. It is a town of 11,331 taxable acres; its population is 796; number of families, 196; valuation, \$468,726; and tax rate, \$13.00 on \$1,000. Owing to the difficulty of providing a proper place for keeping the books, the library had not been opened at the date of the preparation of this report. The trustees have accepted the offer of the pastor of the Congregational church, to give the use of a room in the parsonage and take charge of the books until other arrangements can be made; and it is hoped that the library will soon be ready for use. The trustees are: Franklin H. Gaston, for three years; William H. Sherrill, for two years; and Fred A. Clement, for one year.

ROWLEY.

Farming is the principal industry of the town of Rowley, Essex County. Its taxable acres number 10,506; population, 1,248; number of families, 312; valuation, \$602,984; tax rate, \$13.40 on \$1,000.

The Rowley Free Public Library was opened Sept. 19, 1891, with 1,247 volumes, the association library which existed in the town hav-

ing been made a portion of the public library. Children are admitted to the full privileges of the library at the age of sixteen years; and 262 cards had been issued and 1,879 books circulated up to the first of January of the present year. Books of travel and fiction have been most in demand. The library is kept at the house of the town clerk, Mr. B. P. Mighill; it is open Saturdays from 2.30 to 5 and from 6 to 9 P.M. Catherine N. Mighill is librarian. A catalogue of the books has been printed. The trustees and the dates of the expiration of their service are: G. B. Blodgett, E. B. Hale and B. P. Mighill, 1892; C. E. Marshall, A. E. Bailey and Mrs. Abbie Ellsworth, 1893; J. Scott Todd, Mrs. Sarah Blackinton and Mrs. Annie Henderson, 1894.

SANDWICH.

Sandwich is one of the largest and most important towns in Barnstable County, and its people are engaged in a variety of industries. It has 20,955 taxable acres; its population is 1,819; number of families, 518; valuation, \$902,975; tax rate, \$14.80 per \$1,000.

The Sandwich Free Public Library was opened for use Aug. 8, 1891, and contains 650 volumes. The library has been very successful from its beginning. Among the gifts it has received are \$100 from Henry T. Wing of New York, a like amount from Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Belcher of Randolph, and other sums from Mr. E. P. Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Elwell and Mr. J. H. Nickerson. Among the givers of books have been Col. C. L. Norton, J. J. Roberts, D.D., Edward Clark of Washington, D. C., Miss E. P. Sohler of Beverly, Capt. Watson Freeman of Brookline, James L. Wessen of Boston and F. B. Sanborn of Concord. One interesting gift was the sum of \$75 from Mr. George T. McLaughlin, being the proceeds of a lecture delivered by Wendell Phillips several years ago, which had been treasured for the purpose. The library is kept in a small room rented for the purpose, but this is already crowded and insufficient for its needs. The feasibility of fitting the lower story of the town hall building for library and reading rooms is under consideration. During the first three months the library was opened on Saturday of each week; but the demand for books was so great that the trustees were obliged to open it on Wednesdays also, and the hours are now from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 P.M. on each of the days named. The full privileges of the library are given to all persons twelve years of age or over; 281 cards have been issued and 2,307 books circulated. A broadside list of the books has been printed and freely circulated both in the schools and among the people, with excellent results. The covering, labelling and preparation of the books for circulation was accomplished by voluntary work. Carrie R. Crocker is the

librarian. The trustees in their first report to the town congratulate the people on the establishment of the library, and note the great interest taken in its founding and maintenance by "all our people, at home and abroad," and the success which has attended it from the day it was opened. The trustees are: Miss Alice Cook, W. H. Woodwell, A. F. Carlton, one year; Mrs. M. M. Elwell, Thomas F. Clinton, two years; and Hon. Charles Dillingham, James Shevlin and B. G. Bartley, three years.

SHEFFIELD.

The people of the town of Sheffield, Berkshire County, — a town of large territorial extent, — are principally devoted to agriculture, though there are some other industries within its borders. Its population is 1,954; number of families, 499; valuation, \$884,155; tax rate, \$14.50 per \$1,000; and taxable acreage, 27,584.

The Sheffield Free Public Library was not ready for use at the date of the preparation of this report, sickness and other causes having created delays. Accommodations have been provided for it in the town hall building. It contains about 160 volumes, and the trustees are: Charles O. Dewey, three years; Rev. James S. Ellis, two years; and Albert N. Curtiss, one year.

SOUTHWICK.

The interests of the town of Southwick, Hampden County, are mainly of an agricultural character. Its population is 914; number of families, 248; valuation, \$513,702; tax rate, \$14.50 on \$1,000; taxable acreage, 18,049.

The Southwick Free Public Library was opened the last day of October, 1891, and contains 255 volumes, 29 of which came from School District Library No. 1, and 16 from the Demorest Medal Contest Fund. Children are given the full privileges of the library at the age of fourteen; 99 cards have been issued and 385 volumes circulated. Fiction and history are most in demand, and "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "The Lamplighter" and "Ben Hur" the books most called for. The library is kept in a business block; it is open on Saturdays from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 P.M., and the Rev. David L. Kebbe serves as librarian without pay. The trustees are: George W. Bruce, whose term expires 1892; Edward Gillett, 1893; and Amasa Holcomb, 1894.

TYRINGHAM.

The agricultural town of Tyringham, Berkshire County, contains 10,845 taxable acres; its population is 412; number of families, 107; valuation, \$229,430; tax rate, \$12.00 on \$1,000.

The Tyringham Free Public Library occupies a room fitted up for the purpose in the graded school building, which is located in the centre of the town, and well adapted for the purpose. It has only recently been opened for public use. The trustees are: Dr. Joseph Jones, three years; Miss Lena Garfield, two years; Miss Cora Crittenden, one year.

WESTPORT.

Westport, Bristol County, has a population whose interests include the industries of agriculture and of the sea. Its population is 2,599; number of families, 695; valuation, \$1,329,675; tax rate, \$12.00 per \$1,000; taxable acreage, 28,336.

The Westport Free Public Library was opened June 6, 1891, with 206 volumes, all of which were received from the State or by gift from other sources. A catalogue has been printed, 91 cards have been issued, and the teachers of the public schools are allowed to take books not exceeding three at one time, to be loaned to their pupils or used in school. The library is kept in the town hall building, and is open on Saturdays from 5 to 7 P.M. Mary E. Taylor serves as librarian without compensation. The trustees and the dates of the expiration of their terms are: Jehial Baker and Nancy J. Howland, 1892; Annie F. Jenney and Delia M. Manchester, 1893; and John A. Macomber, 2d, and Joseph M. Shorrock, 1894.

WEST STOCKBRIDGE.

The town of West Stockbridge, in western Berkshire, in addition to its other industries, contains large marble quarries. Its population is 1,492; number of families, 376; valuation, \$625,113; tax rate, \$13.00 on \$1,000; and taxable acreage, 11,254.

The West Stockbridge Free Library was opened June 20, 1891, with 299 volumes, of which 130 were individual gifts. All persons of twelve years of age or over are admitted to its privileges, 125 cards have been issued, and the total circulation to Jan. 1, 1892, was 829 volumes. Scott's and Thackeray's novels have been the books most read. The library is kept in a room over a store, and is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 3 to 5 o'clock P.M. The care of the

library is wholly undertaken by volunteers, Mrs. Julian Williams being the librarian. The trustees and the dates of the expiration of their terms of office are: C. W. Kniffin, 1894; C. S. Platt, 1893; and J. P. Carpenter, 1892.

WINDSOR.

Windsor, Berkshire County, contains several industries in addition to its agricultural interests. Its population is 612; number of families, 149; valuation, \$202,748; tax rate, \$18.00 on \$1,000; taxable area, 21,318 acres.

The Windsor Free Public Library was opened April 20, 1891, and contains 261 volumes, of which 90 were the gift of friends from Boston, Beverly, Lynn and other places. Children at the age of twelve are admitted to the full privileges of the library; and 528 volumes had been issued up to the close of the year. Fiction and history have been the most popular classes of books, and "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Little Lord Fauntleroy," Knox's "Boy Travellers," Mrs. Whitney's stories and Cooper's novels have been in especial demand. A portion of the books is kept in each of the three villages of the town, under the care respectively of James W. Nichols, Jesse A. Shaw and Darius Bird, all of whom volunteer their services. It is proposed to exchange the books deposited at the different villages once in six months or at some stated period. Each depository is open daily. The trustees and the dates of the expiration of their terms are: Rev. S. M. Andrews, 1894; B. H. Hollis, 1893; and H. A. Ford, 1892.

LAWS RELATING TO THE FORMATION AND ORGANIZATION OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

[ACTS OF 1890, CHAPTER 347.]

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT AND EFFICIENCY OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows :

SECTION 1. The governor with the advice and consent of the council shall appoint five persons, residents of the Commonwealth, who shall constitute a board of library commissioners. The governor shall designate the chairman thereof. One member of said board shall be appointed for the term of five years, one for four years, one for three years, one for two years and one for one year; and thereafter the term of office of the commissioners shall be five years. All vacancies on said board, whether occurring by expiration of term or otherwise, shall be filled by the governor with the advice and consent of the council.

SECT. 2. The librarian or trustees of any free public library may ask said board for advice in regard to the selection of books, the cataloguing of books and any other matters pertaining to the maintenance or administration of the library; and the board shall give such advice in regard to said matters as it shall find practicable. The board shall make a report of its doings to the general court in January of each year, and fifteen hundred copies of said report shall be printed as one of the public document series.

SECT. 3. Said board is hereby authorized and directed to expend, upon the application of the board of library trustees of any town having no free public library owned and controlled by the town, a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars for books for any such town entitled to the benefits of this act; such books to be used by said trustees for the purpose of establishing a free public library, and said commissioners shall select and purchase all books to be provided as aforesaid.

SECT. 4. No town shall be entitled to the benefits of this act until such town has accepted the provisions hereof at a regularly called

town meeting, and has elected a board of library trustees as provided in chapter three hundred and four of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, and until said trustees shall have provided, in a manner satisfactory to the board of commissioners, for the care, custody and distribution of the books furnished in accordance with this act.

SECT. 5. Any town accepting the provisions of this act shall annually appropriate from the dog tax, or shall otherwise annually provide for the use and maintenance of its free public library, a sum not less than fifty dollars, if its last assessed valuation was one million dollars or upward, or a sum not less than twenty-five dollars if said valuation was less than one million and not less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or a sum not less than fifteen dollars if said valuation was less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

SECT. 6. No member of the board of commissioners shall receive any compensation, but the board may expend a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars annually for clerical assistance and incidental and necessary expenses in the discharge of its duties; and all sums expended under the provisions of this act shall be paid from the treasury after the bills therefor have been approved by the board and sent to the auditor of the Commonwealth, who shall certify to the governor and council the amount due as in case of all other bills and accounts approved by him under the provisions of law.

SECT. 7. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [*Approved May 28, 1890.*]

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES, AND MANAGEMENT.

[ACTS OF 1888, CHAPTER 304.]

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELECTION AND THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF TRUSTEES OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES, OR OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND READING-ROOMS IN TOWNS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Every town which raises or appropriates money for the support of a free public library, or free public library and reading-room that is owned by the town, shall at its annual meeting, or at a legal town meeting appointed and notified for that purpose by the selectmen, elect a board of trustees, except in cases where such library has been or may be acquired by the town, in whole or in part, by some donation or bequest containing other conditions or provisions for the elections of its trustees or for its care and management, which conditions have been accepted and agreed to by vote of the town.

SECT. 2. [As amended by chapter 112, Acts of 1889.] Said board of trustees shall consist of any number of persons divisible by three which the town may decide to elect, one-third thereof to be elected annually and to continue in office for three years, except that the town shall first elect one-third of the trustees for one year, one-third for two years and one-third for three years, and thereafter one-third the number annually for the term of three years. No person shall be ineligible to serve upon said board of trustees by reason of sex. Such board of trustees shall be elected by ballot, and shall organize annually by the choice of a chairman and secretary from their own number: *provided*, any town having a free public library, which has heretofore elected a board of trustees to manage the same, consisting of a number divisible by three, and has heretofore elected annually one-third of said board for three years, may continue to elect annually one-third of said board, and the trustees in office shall hold their offices until the term for which they were elected shall expire, unless the town shall vote otherwise.

SECT. 3. If any person elected a member of the board of trustees, after being duly notified of his election in the manner in which town officers are required to be notified, refuses or neglects to accept said office, or if any member declines further service, or from change of residence or otherwise, becomes unable to attend to the duties of the board, the remaining members shall in writing give notice of the fact to the selectmen of the town, and the two boards may thereupon, after giving public notice of at least one week, proceed to fill such vacancy until the next annual town meeting; and a majority of the ballots of persons entitled to vote shall be necessary to an election.

SECT. 4. The trustees so elected by the town shall have the entire custody and management of the library and reading-room and all property owned by the town relating thereto; and all money raised or appropriated by the town for its support and maintenance, and all money or property that the town may receive by donation from any source, or by bequest, in behalf of said free public library and reading-room, shall be placed in the care and custody of the board of trustees, to be expended or retained by them for and in behalf of the town for the support and maintenance of its free public library and reading-room, in accordance with the conditions of each or any donation or bequest accepted by the town.

SECT. 5. In every town which shall, by a majority of the votes cast at its annual town meeting or at a legal town meeting appointed and notified for that purpose by the selectmen, so direct, the board of trustees shall, in addition to the officers named in section two of this act, elect from among their own number a treasurer, who shall give a bond to the town similar to the bond given by the town treas-

urer, for such an amount and with such sureties as may be satisfactory to the selectmen; and until a town directs otherwise the town treasurer shall act as treasurer of the board of trustees.

SECT. 6. The trustees shall make an explicit report to the town at each annual town meeting of all their receipts and expenditures, and of all the property of the town in their care and custody, including a statement of any unexpended balance of money they may have, and of any bequests or donations they may have received and are holding in behalf of the town, with such recommendations in reference to the same as they may deem necessary for the town to consider.

SECT. 7. Nothing in this act shall be construed to interfere with library associations, nor with any library that is or may be organized and managed under special act of the legislature.

SECT. 8. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [*Approved May 4, 1888.*]

library is wholly undertaken by volunteers, Mrs. Julian Williams being the librarian. The trustees and the dates of the expiration of their terms of office are: C. W. Kniffin, 1894; C. S. Platt, 1893; and J. P. Carpenter, 1892.

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